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DATE: April 16, 2003

TO: Examiner Huynh
Group Art Unit: 2189

Fax No.: (703) 746-9224

FROM: Richard E. Gamache

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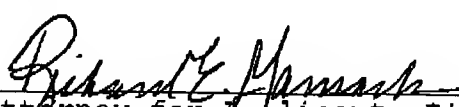
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Enclosed for filing please find a: Request for Telephonic
Interview and Proposed Amendment.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


In re application : Christopher J. Duguay et al.
Application No. : 09/591,044
Filed : June 9, 2000
For : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING AN
SMBUS/I²C INTERFACE ON A NETWORK INTERFACE
CARD
Examiner : Kim T. Huynh
Attorney's Docket : SYNER-164XX

Group Art Unit: 2189

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to
Examiner Kim T. Huynh, Group Art Unit 2189, Fax No. (703)746-9224, on

4/16/03

By


Richard E. Garache
Registration No. 39,196
Attorney for Applicants

REQUEST FOR TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

Via Facsimile
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Madam:

This is a request for a telephonic interview to discuss the
Examiner's rejections of claims 1-9, as indicated in the Final
Office action dated February 4, 2003 in the above-referenced
application.

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Application No. 09/591,044
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REMARKS

In the requested telephonic interview, the Applicants would like to discuss the rejections of base claims 1 and 6. The Examiner has rejected base claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trieu et al. (USP 5,925,135) in view of Carson et al. (USP 5,920,156). Specifically, the official action indicates that the Trieu reference does not teach the first device operative at least at the second clock rate to store at least a portion of the data in a register, and the second device operative at least at the second clock rate to drive the clock line to a low logic level while the data is stored in the register of the first device, as recited in amended base claims 1 and 6. The official action further indicates that the Carson reference teaches "operative at least at the second clock rate to store at least a portion of the data in a register (specification, column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 6), and operative at least at the second clock rate to drive the clock line to a low logic level while the data is stored in the register of the first device (specification, column 8, lines 9-13)."

However, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Carson reference fails to disclose the operation of driving the clock

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line to a first predetermined logic level (e.g., a low logic level) while the data is stored in the register, as recited in base claims 1 and 6. Specifically, the passage cited in the official action (i.e., column 8, lines 9+, of Carson et al.) discloses, in relevant part, that each time a zero crossing signal makes a high to low transition, such as shown by the down directed arrows in Fig. 8 of the Carson reference, the remote input to the micro-controller is sampled to obtain the logic level. This passage further discloses that if the remote input is high, then the LSB for one remote input register is set to logic "1" - if the remote input is low when the zero crossing makes its high to low transition, then the LSB of the register is cleared to a "0".

However, the register 64, as described above and disclosed in the Carson reference, does not function as a clock line, but instead functions as a shift register to hold the bits of a HEX encoded data word received over the remote input, for subsequent comparison with bits stored in a serial encoder register 70 (see column 6, lines 54+, and Fig. 3, of Carson et al.). Clearly, the LSB of the register 64 reset to a "0" cannot correspond to the clock line driven to the first predetermined logic level, as recited in base claims 1 and 6.

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Because the cited Trieu and Carson references neither teach nor suggest the operation of driving the clock line to a first predetermined logic level (e.g., a low logic level) while the data is stored in the register, as recited in base claims 1 and 6, even if these references were combined as suggested, the resulting combination would not render base claims 1 and 6 and the claims dependent therefrom obvious.

Enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a proposed amendment to the claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.116. The Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amended claims include non-obvious subject matter that distinguishes over the cited references.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to schedule the requested telephonic interview. The Applicants would prefer to hold the interview on either April 16, 17 or 22, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER J. DUGUAY ET AL.

By: 

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